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LIMITED SERIES

3 of 5



05.02.08

DAVIS
FARMER
MOUNTS

THEY LIVE AMONG US! BEWARE THE...

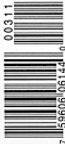
CLANDESTINE™

GUEST-STARRING
EXCALIBUR



DIRECT EDITION

RATED T+

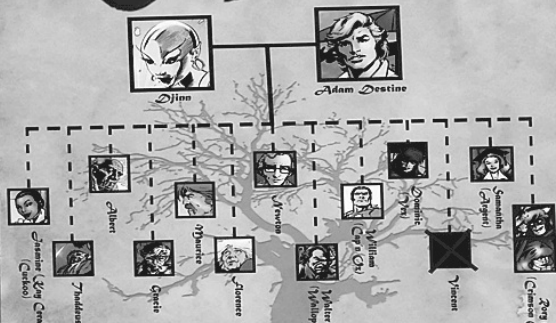


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\$2.99 US \$3.05 CAN

CLANDESTINE



After being rendered immortal by a lovely djinn eight hundred years ago, Adam Destine began the genie-born family that carved history across the continents!

Today, Adam and his children live in England, at a cottage called Ravenscroft. As a mysterious guild plots against the Destine family, elder brother Walter's abilities seem to be out of control, causing him to transform into a rage-filled blue beast against his will. Dominic's sensory abilities are similarly affected, and family genius Newton takes him to Ethern, a parallel world, where he hopes to heal his brother. But Dom is knocked into a dimensional gateway and finds himself transported into a ship occupied by the mutants known as Excalibur!

Meanwhile, as sisters Kay Cera and Sam attend a goth wedding, Adam decides to take his youngest children, Rory and Pandora, out for a night flight.

But when all three Destine's powers falter, Adam seems to explode, and Rory and Pandora are left alone...

CLANDESTINE No. 3, June, 2008. Published Monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10018. © 2008 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. in this magazine with those of any other names, characters, persons, and/or institutions, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.05 in Canada (GST #R127032955) in the direct market Canadian Agreement #42066537. Printed in Canada. ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Characters, Inc. SVP of Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc. DAVID GARNER, VP of Business Affairs & Talent Management. MICHAEL PASQUOLLO, VP of Merchandising & Communications. JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics. DAN CALIN, Executive Director of Publishing Technology. JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Director of Editorial Operations. SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager. Information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Mitch Davis, Advertising Director, at mitchdavis@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

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CLANDESTINE created by Alan Davis



HE LOOKS LIKE
ONE OF THE JESTER KING'S
LAUGHTER ASSASSINS FROM
THREE STOPS AGO.

THIS
IS A RAILWAY TRAIN...
TRAVELING IN OUTER
SPACE...

I'LL TAKE
THE PASTY-FACED
PSYCHO--

NO,
BRIAN...LET
ME...

A TRAIN
WITH GOBLINS,
GHOSTS AND BABY
DRAGONS...I
GOTTA WAKE
UP--

FLAMING
BIRD...STOP... YOUR
TELEPATHIC FEATHERS
ARE A FULL-BEAM
MIGRAINE.

AIEEE!

YOU WON'T
BE ABLE TO USE YOUR
GIGGLE GAGS IF I
CRUSH YOUR LARYNX,
CLOWN!

HE
MUST BE USING
SONICS.

THEN JUST
IN CASE THIS
IS REAL...

...I'D
BETTER DEFEND
MYSELF.

HERE, CATCH,
GOBLIN.

YOUR
STENCH PRECEDED
YOU AND--

--THAT'S
TIGHT TEAMWORK, THE
GOBLIN'S MISS SET ME
UP FOR THE GIRL.

GOOD FORM
ON THE TOSI GERI,
MISSY...

BUT
VERY EASY TO
BLOCK...

...AAAAGH!

A
TELEPORTER.
THAT'S
SNEAKY.

HOW..?

STOP, KITTY!
YOU'RE KILLING
HIM...

THE SHOCK OF YOUR PARTIALLY-PHASED FOOT SLICING THROUGH HIS ARM GAVE HIM A HEART PALPITATION.

YOUR EMPATHIC AWARENESS IS OFF ON THIS ONE, MEGGAN. I WAS COMPLETELY INTANGIBLE--

NOTHING IS COMPLETELY INTANGIBLE, KITTY.

MEGGAN'S RIGHT... I WASN'T ATTACKED... JUST STUNNED BY WHAT HE HAS IN HIS HEAD.

SO MUCH SENSORY AWARENESS...

I'M SURPRISED YOU AREN'T INSANE.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK I AM.

ONE MOMENT, ALISTAIR. WE'RE STILL NOT SURE ABOUT THIS STOWAWAY.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SCARED. I'M MEGGAN, AND THIS IS PHOENIX, SHADOWCAT, LOCKHEED, NIGHTCRAWLER, ALISTAIR, WIDGET AND CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

RIGHT, WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS. SO WHAT ARE YOU AND HOW DID YOU GET ABOARD?

MY NAME IS CO--

--WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE FLOOR IS FALLING.

WHAT NOW?

HE SENSES SOMETHING, BRIAN...

...LIKE EVERYTHING IS MELTING.

PERHAPS BECAUSE WE'RE GOING INTO FINAL APPROACH--THAT'S WHY I CAME IN TO WARN YOU ALL TO...



...BRACE YOURSELVES
FOR IMPACT.

"THE EXCALIBUR CROSS-TIME
SPECIAL IS MAKING AN UNSCHEDULED
STOP AT WHO-KNOWS-WHERE."



IT APPEARS
TO BE AN OLD
WEST GHOST
TOWN.

I GUESS
WE'RE IN FOR ANOTHER
TREK TO FIND OUT
WHERE IN CREATION
WE ARE.

NOT BEFORE
WE DECIDE WHAT
TO DO WITH THE
STOWAWAY.



WHAT
ARE YOU? WHERE
DID YOU COME
FROM?

I'M
HUMAN... FROM EARTH...
ORIGINALLY, I WAS
VISITING AN ALTERNATE
WORLD CALLED ETHERA,
ACTUALLY.

WE'RE FROM
AN EARTH TOO, FROM
WHICH EARTH DID YOU
ORIGINATE--THE
NUMBER?

THEY HAVE
NUMBERS?



NUMBERS AND AN OMNIVERSAL BUREAUCRACY TO MAINTAIN ORDER, THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO HELP TO US.

THEN YOU'RE LOST TOO?

WE ACCIDENTALLY LEFT OUR EARTH AND HAVE BEEN HOPPING BETWEEN DIMENSIONAL PLANES, TRYING TO FIND OUR WAY HOME.



WE'VE BEEN TO ETHERAS, ERTHAS, THERAS, AERTHS AND ALL THE OTHER ANAGRAMS.

COSMIC ORDER HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR--OR ENJOYS A CROSSWORD.

SO HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

THERE IS NO NEED TO BE SO LOUD, BRIAN.



I WAS WITH MY BROTHER IN HIS GARDEN ON ETHERA. WHEN A CRAZY WOMAN APPEARED, MADE ROOTS BURST FROM THE GROUND TO GRAB MY BROTHER, AND BLASTED ME INTO A PORTAL...



YOU ARE MY PRISONER NOW, WARLORD.

LET ME GO, SATYR-NUN! THIS ISN'T A GAME.



BUT IT'S TREASDAY 15.70 ROUHS.

YOU'VE EMPLOYED THE EVIL MASTERMIND TO CREATE SYNTHETIC MEN THAT THREATEN MY EMPIRE.

SO I CAPTURE YOU AND--

YOU'RE RIGHT...I FORGOT OUR DATE.



YOU GOT DISTRACTED WITH ONE OF YOUR INVENTIONS AGAIN.

I'M SORRY, I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU...BUT LET ME OUT...QUICKLY. THIS IS BAD.



WHAT'S WRONG? ALL I DID WAS PUSH THE FUNNY SYNTHETIC FREAK YOU CREATED INTO THE ZOBBLENIK.

THAT FUNNY FREAK WASN'T SYNTHETIC...HE'S MY BROTHER!



OOPIDDY!

NO, WORSE THAN OOPIDY. THIS ISN'T A COMMONPLACE ZOBBLENIK... IT'S MY GATEWAY TO THE MULTIVERSE...

...AND DOMINIC WENT IN WITHOUT A DIRECTIONAL VECTOR.

THIS IS
DIRECTLY UNDER WHERE
ADAM VANISHED, BUT
THERE'S NO SIGN OF...
ANYTHING.

DO YOU
THINK DAD WAS
VAPORIZED?

NAH...HE
CAN'T BE DEAD...HE'S
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

RIGHT...
AND WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
OTHER POWERS
HE HAS...

YEAH...WE
DON'T KNOW HARDLY
ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
HE'LL BE FINE.

YEAH...



BUT...

BUT...FIRST
WALTER'S POWERS
WENT WRONG...THEN
DON'T...NOW ADAM
AND US.

BUT?



Y' THINK,
SOME VILLAIN
MIGHT BE
ATTACKING THE
FAMILY?

NAH...
NAH, MAYBE
IT'S SOME KIND
OF POWER
INTERFERENCE--
FROM SUNSPOTS
OR...SOME-
THING.

SO YOU
THINK WE'RE
ALONE OUT
HERE?

SURE...

YEAH...

DEFINITELY.

WE DON'T
KNOW HOW OUR
POWERS WORK...
RIGHT?



I'M REALLY SCARED, RORY... AND FREEZING! WE HAVE TO GO HOME.

NO. WALTER WILL SAY HE WAS RIGHT... THAT USING OUR POWERS CREATES PROBLEMS.

WE COULD GO TO KAY AND SAM BLASCO CASTLE ISN'T THAT FAR AWAY.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE? OUR POWERS AREN'T WORKING....

IT'S GOT TO BE TEMPORARY... I ALREADY FEEL BETTER-- STRONGER.

NOT THAT MUCH. OUR POWERS ARE CONNECTED, AND I CAN'T GENERATE MORE THAN A FEW WATTS OF LIGHT...

YOU CAN'T RISK FLYING US. WE WON'T HAVE ADAM TO RESCUE US IF WE FALL AGAIN.

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. WE HAVE NO MOBILE PHONE, NO MONEY FOR A PUBLIC PHONE IF THERE IS ONE WITHIN TEN MILES....NOTHING.

WE'LL MAKE SURE WE'RE BETTER PREPARED NEXT TIME. ADD SOME POUCHES TO OUR BELTS FOR BASIC UTILITIES.

NEXT TIME...?

YEAH. DON'T WORRY...WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS. I GOT A PLAN.

WE USE DAD'S FLYING BELT TO GET TO KAY--SHE'LL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ADAM. YOU CAN PIGGYBACK, RANDORA.

OKAY... BUT STAY CLOSE TO THE GROUND... PROMISE!

DON'T WORRY. I HAD A REAL FRIGHT TOO.

RORY...

...IF DAD DID VANISH...WHERE DO YOU THINK HE WENT?

THE SEVENTH MOON
MONASTERY, NEPAL.

MASTER,
I WAS AWAKENED
BY AN UNEARTHLY
LIGHT.

FORGIVE ME
FOR DISTURBING
YOUR SLUMBER,
LOBSANG. I AM
OLD AND MY MAGIC
HAS GROWN
CLUMSY...

...BUT
EXTREME
CIRCUMSTANCES
NECESSITATED
THAT I BRING
SOMEONE HERE
IN HASTE.

MAY I ATTEND
TO YOUR... "GUEST,"
MASTER?

THE INJURY IS
TO HIS ATTIRE ALONE,
LOBSANG. MY FATHER IS AS
IMPERVIOUS TO PHYSICAL
HARM AS HE IS TO THE
BURDEN OF TIME.

HELLO,
FATHER.
DO YOU FEEL
BETTER?

YES...
DID YOU HEAL
ME?

YOUR...
FATHER?

HE WAS
OLD BEFORE THE
FOUNDATIONS OF THIS
MONASTERY WERE LAID,
LOBSANG. ANOTHER
OF LIFE'S MANY
ILLUSIONS.

ALBERT?

NO.
WHATEVER AFFLICTED
YOU STOPPED OF ITS
OWN VOLITION.

TAKE HEART, MY CHILDREN, THIS DAMAGE IS A MINOR SETBACK COMPARED TO THE STELLAR ADVANCE I ACHIEVED TODAY.



NOE WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO THE HANGAR BAY. THE REST OF YOU CONTINUE WITH YOUR ASSIGNED TASKS.

IT IS ALMOST TIME TO STRIKE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RAE? ALPHA INSTRUCTED THAT RESTORATION OF THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IS OUR PRIORITY.

IT WAS FORTUITOUS THAT OUR SYSTEMS BURNED OUT BEFORE THE ENERGY DESTROYED US.

ALPHA'S OBSESSION BLINDS HIM TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DATA WE HAVE ALREADY RECORDED.

ALPHA HAS UNLEASHED FORCES BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING.

THAT IS WRONG THINKING, RAE. ALPHA IS OUR LEADER.

WE OMEGANS WERE AN ACCIDENT, PHAA...THE PRODUCT OF ALPHA'S SEARCH FOR A CURE TO HIS OWN ALBINISM...

BUT WE ARE SUPERIOR; OUR LOGIC IS UNENCUMBERED BY EMOTION OR EGO.

ALPHA NO LONGER VALUES OUR PERFECTION...HE THINKS TO MAKE US OBSOLETE.

THIS IS TOO WEIRD, KAY—I DON'T KNOW WHY I LET YOU TALK ME INTO COMING HERE.

BECAUSE ALL THE FRIENDS YOU EVER MADE GOT OLD OR DIED...

...AND AFTER YEARS OF DOING "THE RIGHT THING" YOU WANT TO FEEL ALIVE AGAIN.

WHAT PUT YOU IN A MOOD?!

I CAN'T ISOLATE ANY THOUGHTS.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE TRYING TO READ MINDS.

I'M NOT! I'M ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE FRIENDS SOMEWHERE BEHIND ALL THESE MASKS... BUT ALL I'M GETTING IS PSYCHIC STATIC.

IF YOU'RE UNWELL, WE COULD ALWAYS GO HOME TO THE COTTAGE.

NO! I HAVE SPENT ENOUGH TIME BEING CAUTIOUS WHILE I ACCLIMATIZE TO THIS NEW BODY...

I WANT TO GET BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE.

NORMAL? YOU'RE AN EIGHT-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD MIND INHABITING A STOLEN BODY...

NOT STOLEN. THE CONSCIOUSNESS HAD DEPARTED BEFORE I MOVED IN.

SAM, I HAVE HOMES IN GENEVA, NEW YORK... L.A., TOKYO, AND RIO. I HAVE WEALTH, CELEBRITY, STATUS...

PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE WITH ME...

...TO INDULGE ME.

THAT WAS THE OLD YOU...AND IF ANYONE REALLY CARED... THEY ATTENDED YOUR FUNERAL!

DON'T BE TEDIIOUS, SAMANTHA. I'VE DONE THIS OFTEN ENOUGH TO DISREGARD THE DETAILS.

WHAT DETAILS? LIKE YOU USING WALTER'S COTTAGE AND THE FAMILY AS A SAFE HAVEN WHILE YOU RECUPERATED?

OR THE VISION YOU SAID ADAM HAD ABOUT IMPENDING DOOM?

SAMANTHA, MY DEAR GIRL, ADAM'S CRAZY CLAIRVOYANCE IS UNRELIABLE...

WHAT HE SAW COULD BE TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW. OR WILLIAM, GRACIE, RIK OR ONE OF THE OTHERS WILL HAVE THE ADVENTURE.

ADVENTURE? ONE OF OUR FAMILY COULD DIE.

I HAVE WATCHED LOTS OF OUR FAMILY DIE.

WHAT ABOUT THE PSYCHIC STATIC? MAYBE--

THERE ARE ALWAYS GLITCHES AS MY CONSCIOUSNESS SETTLES INTO A NEW BODY--

--ESPECIALLY WHEN MY PREVIOUS HOST'S DEMISE WAS SO VIOLENT.

NOT TO MENTION HAVING TO INHABIT AN ALLEY CAT WHILE I SEARCHED FOR ANOTHER BODY.

YOU MAKE IT ALL SOUND LIKE SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES.

THAT'S ALL IT IS, AND THIS BODY IS YOUNG, FIT AND RARING TO GO, SO STAND BACK, LITTLE SISTER...

I'VE JUST SPOTTED SOME VERY OLD FRIENDS I WANT TO REACQUAINT MYSELF WITH.

KAY?

NOT NOW, SAM. GO, MINGLE. ENJOY.

THE
BEATLES?

JOHN, PAUL,
GEORGE AND
RINGO.

MADONNA?

A
PAINTING...BY
RAPHAEL?

JOHN
WAYNE?

YUP! THE
DUKE.

WINSTON
CHURCHILL?

YES...
I MET HIM ONCE.
HE LOOKED LIKE
A BULLDOG.

WHAT YEAR
IS IT ON YOUR
EARTH?

2008.

NAH!
YOU DEFINITELY
AREN'T FROM
THE SAME EARTH
AS US.

THAT'S IT?
THAT'S HOW YOU FIND
OUT IF YOU'RE IN THE
RIGHT DIMENSION...A
POP QUIZ?

IT HELPS TO
NARROW THE FIELD.
LOOK FOR SOME GLARING
ANOMALY FIRST, THEN
WORK DOWN TO THE
NITTY-GRITTY.

THIS IS HOW IT
ALWAYS IS...AND EACH
TIME WE WISH WE WERE
HOME, BUT IT'S ALWAYS
SOMEWHERE STRANGE
OR HORRIBLE.

WE
SHOULD
SPLIT UP.

NEIN.
THE LAST TIME
WE DID, YOU WERE
TRANSFORMED
INTO A DUCK
AND...

NOTHING
IN THESE RUINS IS
FROM LATER THAN THE
EARLY NINETEENTH
CENTURY.

LET'S
JUST HOPE RAY,
KURT OR BRIAN
FIND SOMETHING
CONTEMPORARY
NEARBY.

ALL ALTERNATE
EARTHS FOLLOWED A PARALLEL
DEVELOPMENT UNTIL SOME EVENT
CAUSED A DEVIATION FROM THE
HISTORY WE KNOW.

HITLER DYING IN A
CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT, COLUMBUS
BEING KILLED IN A MUTINY OR THE
CONFEDERACY WINNING THE
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

THERE...
PEOPLE RUNNING...
SCARED!

"AND LOOK WHAT
THEY'RE RUNNING FROM."



A
PYROTECHNIC FLASH
SHOULD DISCOURAGE
THOSE BEASTS.



IT
SCARED THE
LOCALS JUST
AS MUCH.



FORTUNATELY,
THEY ARE HUDDLED
TOGETHER...

"...SO I CAN TELEPORT
THEM EN MASSE."



KURT IS
WASTED AFTER
'PORTING SO
MANY PEOPLE
TOGETHER...

...BUT THE
PEOPLE HE SAVED
DON'T LOOK TOO
GRATEFUL.

ARE YOU
CRAZY? HE MAY LOOK
A BIT WEIRD BUT HE
SAVED YOU!

TO MAKE
US SLAVES,
ONLY.

WE
WILL NOT
FIGHT IN YOUR
ARENA.

WE
WILL BE
FREE.

ARENA?
WHAT SORT OF
SCREWED-UP WORLD
IS THIS?

WHATEVER
IT IS... IT ISN'T
OURS.

I AGREE, SO LET'S
FINISH THIS AND LEAVE
BEFORE THINGS GET
COMPLICATED.

RAW

THAT
GOES DOUBLE
FOR ME.

I'M BETTING
ALIENS INVADED--WE
SHOULD GET BACK TO
THE TRAIN BEFORE THE
E.T.'S COME LOOKING
FOR THEIR LIZARD
MUTTS.

TOO LATE,
KITTY...

"...THEY'RE HERE!"

VERONICA'S VENDETTA

Chapter 22

"You risked much to kill my brother," said the pirate Theodore Fontaine as he tugged Veronica towards him by her manacled wrists.

Moonlight sparkled in Veronica's defiant eyes. "He murdered my beloved fiancé, Ronaldo. I swore he would pay."

"And so the cycle of senseless violence continues. But that is not my way," said Theodore coldly.

TK TIKK TAK TAK

DRIVING
DRIVING

Suddenly panicked by the prospect of a fate worse than death, Veronica pulled futilely against Theodore's iron grip.

"Be still, m'lady, I am no monster," pleaded the pirate.

Then, with surprising tenderness the rugged giant's powerful hands removed Veronica's manacles and...



HELLO, THIS IS WALTER. I'M NOT IN RIGHT NOW, BUT IF YOU LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER I'LL GET BACK TO YOU...
BEEP.



HOLA, WALTER MY SWEET, THIS IS GABRIELLA...



I AM BACK IN ENGLAND FOR THE WEEK--IN THE SAME HOTEL SUITE YOU LIKE SO MUCH, YES?

THE CHAMPAGNE IS ON ICE...PHONE SOON, CIAO!



WHU... A POWER CUT?!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!



THIS
CANNOT BE
HAPPENING!

I'M SICK AND
TIRED OF BEING A
PRISONER IN THIS
STUPID LITTLE
COTTAGE!

KRUMP

NO
MORE!
ENOUGH
IS--

A
PRISONER
IN MY OWN
BODY!

LORD...
WHAT IS
HAPPENING
TO ME..?



NEPAL.

THE PAIN IS SUBSIDING AGAIN...WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME, ALBERT?

HOW IS IT THAT I CAN FEEL?

I DO NOT KNOW, BUT IF THIS IS AN ATTACK, YOU APPEAR TO BE THE FOCUS BUT NOT THE TARGET.

YOU MEAN THAT WHATEVER THIS IS, IT AFFLICTS THE ENTIRE FAMILY?

MY GIFT IS TO HEAL...THE MYSTIC ARTS ARE A SKILL I'VE LEARNED AND I'VE NEVER BEEN AS ADEPT AS NATHANIEL, GRACIE OR KAY...

...NOR AM I AS HEALTHY.

I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO TELEPATHICALLY CONTACT SOME OF THE OTHERS, BUT I AM UNABLE TO SENSE EVEN KAY...

...AND HER MIND IS SO POWERFUL IT IS USUALLY A BEACON IN THE DARK.

YOU MUST SEND ME BACK TO RAVENSCROFT.

WHAT WOULD THAT ACHIEVE?

I MUST DO SOMETHING.

THEN DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I CAN SEE THAT SOMETHING VIOLATES YOUR VERY SOUL...

BUT WHAT MOTHER MADE YOU IS BEYOND MY ABILITIES TO AFFECT OR EVEN COMPREHEND.

IF YOU ARE TO PREVAIL, YOU MUST RETURN TO YDEN.

RORY, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE... HOW WILL WE FIND KAY AND SAM?

I HAD HOPED TO REACH HER PSYCHICALLY... AND I'VE BEEN THINKING HER NAME AS HARD AS I CAN-- BUT SHE HASN'T ANSWERED.

WELL, WE CAN'T JUST GO UP TO THE FRONT DOOR AND ASK TO SEE HER. WE'RE IN COSTUME.

YEAH... SO ARE MOST OF THE GUESTS. I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL EVEN NOTICE US.

ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO CONTACT KAY?

YES. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS, BUT EVER SINCE THE TIME WE MIND-LINKED I USUALLY JUST THINK HER NAME AND SHE HEARS.

NICE COSTUMES, LITTLE PEOPLE... ARE YOU GUESTS OR PART OF THE ENTERTAINMENT?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR OUR SIS--OUR AUNT, KAY CERA. SHE'S AT THE WEDDING.

YOU'RE RELATED TO KAY. WHAT AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE. I KNOW HER WELL.

I WAS CONVERSING WITH HER MERE MOMENTS AGO OVER BY THE CLOISTER.

THAT IS AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE.

YOU DO NOT TRUST ME, MOST WISE, GIVEN THE LATE HOUR AND THIS REMOTE LOCALE.

BUT PERHAPS IF I INFORMED YOU THAT KAY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A STRIKING AMAZONIAN BEAUTY NAMED SAMANTHA...

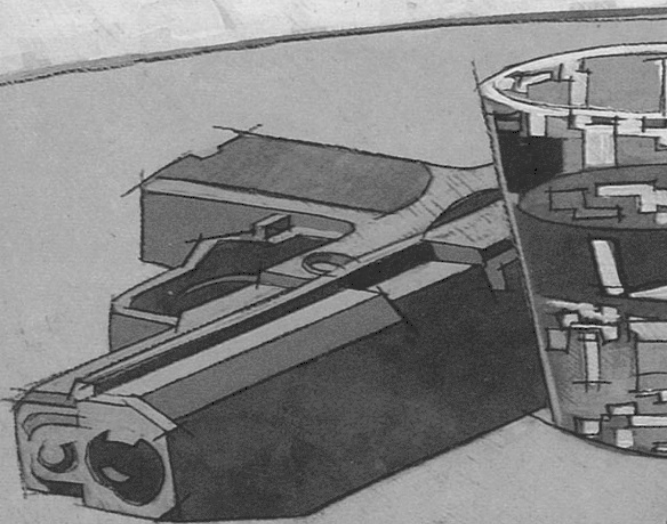


To be continued

MINUTEMEN

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